

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8589

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 10968

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: REGIME'S MEASURES ON DOWN-TO-COUNTRYSIDE YOUTH

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO A RECENT BORDER CROSSER, DOCUMENTS READ OUT IN LATE SEPTEMBER TO HIS GROUP OF DOWN-TO-THE COUNTRYSIDE YOUTH (DCY) DESCRIBED HOW MAO'S CALL FOR BETTER TREATMENT OF DCY WAS DOUBTED BY CADRE UNTIL PREMIER CHOU STEPPED IN WITH STERN PUNISHMENTS. INSTRUCTIONS FOR GUARANTEEING DCY BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS WERE ISSUED. DCY IN THE SOURCE'S GROUP WERE IMPRESSED AND SATISFIED WITH THE CONTENTS OF THE DOCUMENTS, BUT THE SOURCE HIMSELF WENT AHEAD WITH PLANS TO ESCAPE. END SUMMARY.

A RECENT BORDER CROSSER HAS REPORTED THE CONTENTS OF DOCUMENTS, READ OUT TO HIS DOWN-TO-THE-COUNTRYSIDE GROUP IN SEPTEMBER, WHICH SET FORTH REGIME EFFORTS TO IMPROVE DCY
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CONDITIONS. THE REPORT PROVIDES THE MOST DETAIL WE HAVE SEEN OF

SUCH MEASURES AND PROVIDES BACKGROUND ON THE DRIVE TO SEND DCY TO THEIR ASSIGNMENTS, WHICH HAS JUST BEGUN (WR 44). KEY PORTIONS FOLLOW: DOCUMENT 21 REFERRED TO IS MAO'S ORIGINAL EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER THE CASE OF A FUKIEN SCHOOLMASTER'S SON, WHICH WE REPORTED EARLIER (WR 28).

BEGIN TEXT. OCUMENT NO. 29. THIS DOCUMENT WAS INTRODUCED AS "REPORT BY CHOU EN-LAI ON THE FAILURE TO PROMULGATE DOCUMENT NO. 21." SOURCE DESCRIBED IT AS BEING IN FOUR PARTS.

A. INTRODUCTION. CHOU EN-LAI EXPLAINED THAT CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG COMPLAINED TO HIM THAT IT HAD COME TO HIS ATTENTION THAT LEADERS AT CERTAIN LEVELS HAD FAILED TO PROMULGATE DOCUMENT NO. 21. MANY HAD DOUBTED ITS AUTHENTICITY AND SOUGHT CONFIRMATION OF ITS CONTENT, AND COUNTY AUTHORITIES HAD EVEN ARRESTED LI CHING-LIN, THE FUCHOU SCHOOLMASTER. THE CHAIRMAN TASKED HIM, CHOU, WITH CARRYING OUT AN INVESTIGATION AND PUBLISHING A REPORT TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE WAS FURTHER TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT LI WAS A CCP MEMBER; IF HE WAS THEN HE MUST BE INVITED TO THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS; IF LI WAS NOT A MEMBER HE SHOULD BE PERSUADED TO JOIN AND THEN BE INVITED TO THE TENTH CONGRESS. IF HE REFUSED OR IF FORMALITIES TOOK TOO LONG, THEN HE WAS TO BE INVITED TO THE FOURTH PEOPLES CONGRESS.

B. INVESTIGATION. CHOU HAD ASCERTAINED THAT THE SCHOOLMASTER HAD INDEED BEEN ARRESTED AND THAT IN MOST AREAS DOCUMENT NO. 21 HAD NOT BEEN PROMULGATED AS DIRECTED. CHOU FOUND THAT THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OR TARDINESS IN IMPLEMENTATION WAS MIDDLE AND LOWER CADRES' DOUBTS AS TO THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE DOCUMENT. THEIR DOUBTS WERE THE DIRECT RESULT OF AN IDEOLOGICAL SHORTCOMING, OF FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR CONSTANT RE-EVALUATION OF CURRENT PRACTICES TO ENSURE THAT THEY COMPLIED WITH THE HIGHEST REVOLUTIONARY IDEALS, AND OF FAILURE TO REALIZE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL'S REFUSAL TO SWIM WITH THE TIDE IS NOT NECESSARILY ALWAYS A SIGN OF THE REACTIONARY OR SUBVERSIVE. HE FOUND THAT THE SCHOOLMASTER'S FINANCIAL SITUATION WAS COMMON THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, BUT THAT PROTEST HAD BEEN IMPROPERLY SUPPRESSED, NOT BY DELIBERATE POLICY, BUT BY THE FAILURE OF THE POLITICAL JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (STC: 2398/3128) TO APPRCIATE THE SERIOUSNESS OF SUCH INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS AS CAME BEFORE THEM. RESISTANCE TO THE DCY
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MOVEMENT BY THE MASSES WAS FURTHER ENCOURAGED BY THE PHYSICAL AND VERBAL ABUSE HEAPED UPON MANY OF THE DC SBUTH, ESPECIALLY THE RAPE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF YOUNG FEMALES. THE OFFENDERS IN THESE CASES WERE USUALLY MIDDLE AND LOWER LEVEL CADRES. THE LAW WAS QUITE SPECIFIC AND OFFENDERS WOULD BE DEALT WITH AS FOLLOWD:

(1) RAPE AND SERIOUS/REPEATED CASES OF PHYSICAL ABUSE WOULD BE

PUNISHED BY THE DEATH PENALTY.

(2) LESS SERIOUS CASES OF PHYSICAL ABUSE, VERBAL ABUSE AND IDEOLOGICAL BACKWARDNESS WOULD BE PUNISHED BY HARD LABOR.

(3) MINOR OFFENCES AND POLITICAL SHORTCOMINGS, WHEN ACKNOWLEDGED AND ACCOMPANIED BY A GENUINE DESIRE TO IMPROVE, NEED NOT BE PUNISHED. RE-EDUCATION WAS ALL THAT WAS NECESSARY.

C. SENTENCES PASSED. CHOU THEN STATED THAT IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE HIGHEST COURT IN THE COUNTRY HE HAD PRONOUNCED THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES ON PERSONS CONVICTED OF SPECIFIC OFFENCES BROUGHT TO LIGHT DURING HIS INVESTIGATION:

(1) A PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY, CANTON MILITARY REGION, DIVISIONAL COMMANDER (NOT NAMED) FROM HAINAN ISLAND WAS TO BE SHOT FOR REPEATED RAPE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF FEMALE DCY.

(2) THE CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE ABOVE COMMANDER WAS SENTENCED TO "HARD LABOR FOR LIFE" FOR SIMILAR OFFENSES.

(3) A REGIMENTAL COMMANDER IN THE SAME DIVISION WAS SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS HARD LABOR FOR SIMILAR, BUT LESS NUMEROUS, OFFENSES.

D. POLICY. CHOU EMPHASIZED THAT THE REDEPLOYMENT OF UNEMPLOYED URBAN RESIDENTS WAS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF CENTRAL PARTY POLICY. THE MOVEMENT SENDING "INTELLECTUAL YOUTHS UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS AND DOWN TO THE COUNTRYSIDE" WOULD NOT CEASE. BETWEEN 1973 AND 1980 SOME 3,000,000 (SIC) YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WOULD BE AFFECTED, BUT THESE YOUNG PEOPLE MUST NOT BE ILL-TREATED. THEY WERE FILLING AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN THE PROGRESS OF THE REVOLUTION.

DOCUMENT NO. 31. THIS DOCUMENT WAS ENTITLED "POLICY FOR (SENDING) CONFIDENTIAL

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INTELLECTUAL YOUTH UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS AND DOWN TO THE COUNTRYSIDE."

A. EACH LEVEL OF LEADING ORGANS MUST APPOINT A DEPUTY SECRETARY SOLELY TASKED WITH SUPERVISION OF THE (DCY) POLICY.

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B. PROBLEMS REGARDING THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THOSE ASSIGNED TO RURAL COMMUNES MUST BE SOLVED; UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MUST ANY DC YOUTH BE PERMITTED TO LIVE AT A LOWER STANDARD THAN THAT OF NATIVE FARMERS OF THE COMMUNE TO WHICH HE IS ASSIGNED AND, NOTWITHSTANDING LOCAL STANDARDS, MUST RECEIVE:

(1) A MINIMUM 22.5KG OF UNHUSKED RICE PER MONTH.

(2) FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT.

(3) FREE HOUSING; FOR WHICH THERE WAS A STATE GRANT AVAILABLE OF UP TO RMBY 450.00.

C. THE ONLY YOUNG PEOPLE EXCLUDED FROM THE DC MOVEMENT WERE:

(1) CHILDREN OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

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(2) THE ONLY SON OR DAUGHTER IN ANY FAMILY.

(3) MEDICALLY CERTIFIED PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL OR MENTAL

HANDICAPS.

D. THERE WAS TO BE AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE DISPENSATIONS AND FAVORABLE TREATMENT HITHERTO EXTENDED TO THE CHILDREN OF CADRES. THE LAW WOULD BE INVOKED TO PUNISH THOSE GUILTY OF SUCH ACTIONS. IT WAS TO BE APPLIED RETROSPECTIVELY.

DISCUSSION. THE CHAIRMAN THEN INVITED THE DC REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMENT ON THE DOCUMENTS AND TO RAISE ANY RELEVANT COMPLAINTS ARISING FROM THE FAILURE OF COMMUNE CADRES IN IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY. THE INITIAL AMAZEMENT ON THE FACES OF MOST DC YOUTH, AN AMAZEMENT THAT HAD GROWN GRATER AS EUIH DOCUMENT HAD BEEN READ OUT, WAS QUICKLY REPLACED BY DELIGHT. FOR OVER AN HOUR THE CADRES WERE INUNDATED WITH VERBAL AND HASTILY WRITTEN, BUT ANONYMOUS, LETTERS OF COMPLAINT. THE CHAIRMAN THEN SUMMARIZED THE COMPLAINTS AND ANNOUNCED THE ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

A. SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS

(1) MANY CASES OF PHYSICAL ABUSE, RESULTING IN HOSPITALIZATION OF DC YOUTH.

(2) A SUBSTANDARD RICE RATION.

(3) SUBSTANDARD, RENTED, ACCOMMODATION.

(4) EXPENSIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT.

(5) HABITUAL VERBAL ABUSE AND CONTEMPT.

(6) MANY CASES OF CADRES INDULGING IN SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF NAIVE DC FEMALES.

(7) THREE CASES OF BRUTAL RAPE.

B. ACTION TAKEN. THE CHAIRMAN MADE THE FOLLOWING PROMISES: -

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(1) PHYSICAL ABUSE WOULD CEASE; PAST MEDICAL EXPENSES OF DC YOUTHS RESULTING FROM PHYSICAL ABUSE WOULD BE REFUNDED AND "OPPRESSORS" FORCED TO MAKE PUBLIC APOLOGIES.

(2) THE 1973 RICE RATION WOULD BE ADJUSTED AND THIS WOULD BE RETROSPECTIVE FOR THE WHOLE YEAR.

(3) A START WOULD BE MADE TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THEIR OWN HOMES.

(4) MEDICAL FEES WOULD BE CANCELLED.

(5) ALL VERBAL INSULTS OR ABUSE MUST CEASE AND DC YOUTHS WERE TO REPORT FUTURE OFFENDERS.

(6) SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND RAPE WOULD CEASE; THE CENTRAL PARTY SPONSORED 14-MAN INVESTIGATION TEAM, OPERATING UNDER CHOU EN-LAI'S PERSONAL DIRECTION, WAS TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS OF RAPE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.

OTHER MATTERS - IN ANSWER TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, THE DC YOUTHS WERE TOLD THAT THE FUCHOU SCHOOLMASTER, LI CHING-LIN, WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE PARTY BUT HAD SINCE JOINED, AND THAT, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS TOO LATE FOR THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS, HE WAS TO ATTEND THE FOURTH PEOPLES CONGRESS. THEY WERE GIVEN NO FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 14-MAN INVESTIGATION TEAM.

DC YOUTH: REACTION. SOURCE BELIEVED MOST DC YOUTHS WERE IMPRESSED AND SATISFIED WITH THE EFFECTS OF THE THREE DOCUMENTS. HE PERSONALLY HAD RESERVATIONS AND THOUGHT THAT THINGS WOULD SOON REVERT TO THE "NORMAL," THAT IS THE STATE THAT HAS EXISTED SINCE 1968. HE CONTINUED MAKING PERSONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO EMIGRATE ILLEGALLY. SOURCE WAS CERTAIN THAT THE SORT OF OFFENSES HIS COLLEAGUES COMPLAINED OF WERE LARGELY BASED ON FACT, BUT THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE EXAGGERATION DURING THE MEETING. A NORMAL REACTION, HE THOUGHT, FROM FRUSTRATED PEOPLE GIVEN THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO COMPLAIN. END TEXT.
OSBORN

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